

Frederick Wissman House
River Street Historic District
65 N. River Street
San Jose
Santa Clara County
California

HABS No. CA-2368

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CAL
43-SANJOS,
33-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Western Region
Department of the Interior
San Francisco, California 94107

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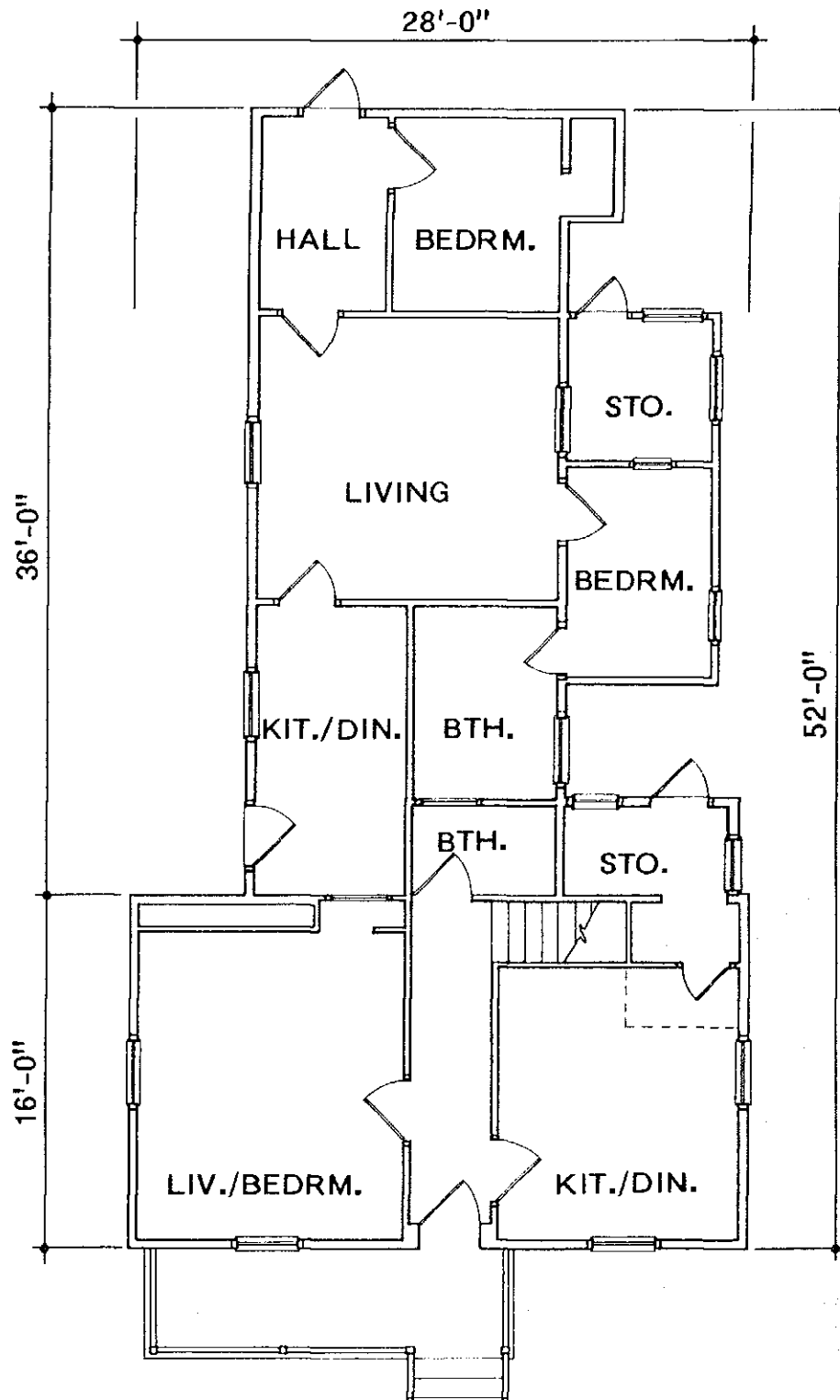
HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

Frederick Wissman House

HABS No. CA-2368

- Location:** 65 North River Street, River Street Historic District
San Jose, Santa Clara County, California
UTM Coordinates: 10-597715-4132240
- Significance:** The Frederick Wissman House, due to its architectural integrity and contribution to the urban fabric, forms an integral part of the River Street Historic District, a rare intact late nineteenth and early twentieth century working class neighborhood in San Jose.
- Description:** The Frederick Wissman House is a wood framed T-shaped structure with a two-story segment facing the street and a narrower one-story segment extending to the rear. Each segment contains a complete living unit. The house is clad in channel rustic siding with hipped roof on the two story portion and a gabled roof over the rear. The house is built in the Italianate style with a symmetrical three bay facade, central door, four over four shuttered double-hung windows, and wide cornice supported by ornamental brackets. The only major modification to the structure was made sometime before 1950 when the original full-facade porch was replaced with an asymmetrical one extending across only two-thirds of the elevation.
- History:** The house, constructed around 1875, is one of the oldest structures in the district and is a good representation of what San Jose looked like before the influx of Italian immigrants. The house was built by Frederick Wissman, a German immigrant and plumber by trade. By 1910, the house was occupied by Wissman's widow Sarah, his daughter, and his son-in-law George Asselin, an English immigrant. George Asselin, a clerk with the Red Cross Drug Store, originally occupied 81 Pleasant Street, and moved into this house in 1908. By the 1920s, the house was owned by John Silveira, a Portuguese immigrant farmer, and his wife Elizabeth. Elizabeth Silveira continued to live in the house until 1941, when it became a two or three unit rental property.
- Sources:** California Historic Resources Inventory Form, prepared by Stephen D. Mikesell, 1988.
San Jose City Directories.
San Jose 1924 Block Map.
- Historian:** Hardlines: Design & Delineation
Columbus, Ohio & Bethesda, Maryland
July - October, 1993

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FIRST FLOOR PLAN

1/8" = 1' - 0"